AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title as follows:

QUALITY CONTROL AND SUPPORT METHOD <u>FOR ANALYZER</u>, ~~QUALITY CONTROL METHOD, AND DEVICE THEREFOR~~.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

-- This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/725,498, filed November 30, 2000. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- The present invention relates to quality control in, and technology for facilitating support of, analyzers. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- In order <u>to</u> carry out external quality control, however, the same quality control substance has to be sent from a statistical tallying center to each facility; the quality control substance has to be assayed at each facility; those assay results ("sample data" hereinafter) have to be sent from each facility to the statistics center; and the sample data has to be tallied by the statistics center. This means that the facilities first learn of the external quality control results when the tally is sent back from the statistics center. From the time the quality control substance is sent out until the time the tally is returned routinely takes one to two months. Sometimes it is necessary to wait until the statistics center accumulates a set number of sample data returns. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- The processing unit **12** performs support process and QC process, using the user control database **14**. The support process displays predetermined error log at the control device, making it possible to find the cause of the trouble. Fig. 8 through **11** show display

examples of the error log output by the processing unit **12**. <u>These display examples are shown on the display unit 17.</u> The QC process makes possible real time external quality control at the analyzer. Fig. 14 and 15 show examples of Web pages for tally results created by the QC process. These examples will be discussed in detail below. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 19 with the following rewritten version:
-- An analyzer **2** has an analysis unit **21**, a communications interface **23**, an e-mail server **24**, a <u>user side</u> remote control unit ~~(user side)~~ **25**, a WWW browser **26**, a patient masking unit **27** and a control unit **28**. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 16 with the following rewritten version:
-- The control unit **28** controls the operations of the analysis unit **21** and of the <u>other</u> constituent elements of the <u>analyzer 2</u> ~~user terminal 22~~. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 6 with the following rewritten version:
-- In Step S5, the processing unit **12** temporarily saves the received operational information. This is <u>for</u> use ~~for~~ in the support process, which is discussed below. In the support process, for example, operational information from each analyzer **2** until 00:00 midnight, when the date changes, is stored; when the time reaches 00:00, operational history is created based on the operational information received that day. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 2 with the following rewritten version:
-- Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing the flow of the QC process the <u>control device</u> ~~analyzer~~ **1** performs. In the above-discussed main process, when the control device **1** receives sample data from any analyzer **2**, the control device **1** performs the following QC process. In other words, it tallies sample data including newly received sample data, and updates the Web page for each analyzer using the new tally results. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 15 with the following rewritten version:

-- The <u>control device</u> ~~analyzer~~ 1 performs other processes in addition to main process, support process and QC process. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 10 with the following rewritten version:

-- In Step S41, the control unit **28** monitors the operational conditions of the analysis unit **21** and determines whether error information has occurred or not. If the determination is "Yes," then Step ~~S41~~ <u>S42</u> ensues. If "No," then Step S44, explained later, ensues. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 19 with the following rewritten version:

-- In Step S48, the control unit 28 awaits for operational information showing the operational conditions of the control device 1 other than error information. Operational information other than error information can include number of times operated, operation program, set-up conditions and the like. When operational information arises, operations <u>proceed to</u> Step <u>S49</u> ~~S52 ensues~~. In all other cases, the process flow <u>proceeds</u> ~~returns~~ to Step <u>S50</u> ~~S41~~. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- In Step S50, the control unit **28** determines whether instructions have been given for completion of the analyzer. If the determination is "<u>No</u> ~~Yes~~," then <u>the operations return to</u> Step <u>S41</u> ~~S49 ensues~~. If "<u>Yes</u> ~~No~~," then Step S51, described later, ensues.